[Shri A. J. John]

The second stage of the Neyyar scheme envisages the construction of the left bank channel of 24 miles and branch channel of 75 miles to irrigate 19,100 acres in Neyyattinkara and Vilavancode Taluks at a cost of Rs. 105 lakhs. The second stage of the Chalakudi Project aims at the construction of main channels of 17 miles and 61 miles of branch channels to irrigate 20,250 acres. The estimated cost of its execution is Rs. 60 lakhs. The Cheerakuzhi scheme estimated to cost Rs. 47.34 lakhs is designed to take advantage of the storage of the Mangalam Scheme of the Madras State for irrigating nearly 4,000 acres of wet lands in Talappally Taluk. The Bhoothathankettu Scheme would benefit about 63,300 acres in Muvattupuzha and Kunnathunad Taluks. It involves the construction of a diversion weir in the Periyar at Bhoothathankettu to lead water to the left bank through main and branch channels. The total outlay on the scheme would be of the order of Rs. 348 lakhs.

*Medium Irrigation.*—Besides the major irrigation projects, a number of irrigation works which are now classified as medium irrigation has been undertaken during the first plan period. Special mention may be made of Vilathura scheme, the opening of a 'thodu' from Muvattupuzha river to Vadayar kari lands, etc. A larger number of such medium irrigation works is proposed to be taken up next year under the Second Five Year Plan. Altogether nineteen new items of such works distributed all over the State, are provided for in the next year's budget.

*Lift Irrigation.*—Provision is made in the budget estimates for the next year not only to complete the 26 items of new lift irrigation works taken up this year, but also for taking up fourteen new lift irrigation works. Further the Vamanapuram and Kallada schemes are now under investigation.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

10. As regards communication facilities, Travancore-Cochin has always been ahead of the rest of India. The target originally fixed under the First Five Year Plan for special surfacing and construction of new roads, has already been exceeded. Of the thirteen bridges included in the First Plan, four *viz.*,

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Palai, Mallappally, Ithipuzha and Moolaplakkel have been completed and all others except Cherai bridge are under execution. Under the Second Five Year Plan, twenty-four major bridges would be taken up in addition to the completion of the work on bridges already taken up. Provision has been made in the next year's budget for starting work on all bridges. For the year 1956-57, the target set for special surfacing and improvement of roads is 221 miles.

WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE.

11. In the latter half of the first plan period the State Government formulated some schemes under the National Water Supply and Drainage programme of the Government of India. Of these, the Trichur Water Supply Scheme has been taken up. Recently the work on Kottayam and Quilon Water Supply Schemes was formally inaugurated by the President during his visit to the State. Due to difficulties in the procurement of essential materials and equipments much progress could not be achieved in the implementation of the Water Supply and Drainage Schemes during 1955-56. Adequate provision has been made in the next year's budget to push through the execution of the various urban water supply and drainage schemes, which would be completed during the second plan period. In addition to the urban water supply schemes, a few of the rural water supply schemes are to be undertaken by the Public Works Department. The rural water supply schemes proposed to be taken up by the Public Works Department during 1956-57 are Alwaye Water Supply Scheme, Parur Water Supply Scheme, Tripunithurai Water Supply Scheme and Water Supply Scheme for Karunagappally coastal area. To ensure the speedy and efficient execution of the Urban and Rural Water Supply Schemes, a separate Public Health organisation under a Chief Engineer is being set up.

ANTI-SEA EROSION.

12. Latterly the problem of Sea erosion has become more menacing. An experimental scheme for providing protection to the worst affected areas was taken up in January 1955. It involves the construction of a sea wall and groynes one mile long at Mannasseri near Chellanom. Pilot studies for counteracting sea erosion are being conducted at the Central Water and Power Research Station at Poona. In the light of these

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